

DISCUSSION OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 7-14, 23-27 and 29 are pending in the present application.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants draw the Office's attention to the Suzuki Declaration submitted in the present application on January 9, 2008. The Suzuki Declaration compares a molded article according to the presently claimed invention, e.g., made by molding an article and subsequently subjecting the article to cross-linking, against a molded article made by molding an already-crosslinked plastic composition. Page 2 of the Suzuki Declaration compares the properties of the inventive and comparative molded articles. It is readily evident from Table 1' on page 2 of the Suzuki Declaration that there are substantial differences between the inventive and comparative molded articles with respect to properties such as tensile strength at break, elongation at break, residual tensile strength at break, residual elongation at break, tensile strength at break (80°C), elongation at break (80°C), heat deformation and deformation temperature. As declared by the Declarant:

As is apparent from Table 1', the resin sheet of Example 1 (where crosslinking is carried out after molding) is superior to that of Comparative Experiment (where crosslinking is carried out before molding) in respect to heat resistances such as residual tensile strength at break, residual elongation at break, heat deformation, and deformation temperature.

See paragraph no. 6 on page 2 of the Suzuki Declaration.

As is made clear by the factual evidence of the Suzuki Declaration, the presently claimed molded article is substantially different from, and superior to, the comparative molded article.

The comparative molded article of the Suzuki Declaration corresponds to the molded article of JP' 835 (JP 11-050835) cited by the Office as relevant prior art to the presently claimed invention. Both the molded article of the Suzuki Declaration and the JP '835 disclosure are made by forming a molded article from an already-crosslinked thermoplastic composition.

Applicants submit that the evidence of record makes it clear that the molded article of the present claims is unobviously different from the molded articles of JP '835. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of the present claims over JP '835.

Applicants submit herewith an English translation of JP '835. Applicants submit that the presently submitted English translation of JP '835 is superior to and more accurate than the machine English translation of JP '835 relied on by the Office in the March 24, 2009 Office Action. In particular, Applicants draw the Office's attention to paragraph [0036] of the English translation of JP '835 submitted herewith. This disclosure of JP '835 underscores the difference between the molded articles of JP '835 and the molded articles of the present claims. According to JP '835 the "propylene resin composition is molded to various molded articles by any molding processes such as film forming process ... a foaming process and the like." JP '835 does not disclose or suggest carrying out cross-linking on a molded article but instead discloses forming a molded article by, for example, subjecting a cross-linked thermoplastic composition to injection molding.

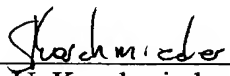
Applicants thus submit that the rejection of the presently claimed invention as anticipated and/or obvious over JP '835 should be withdrawn and all now-pending claims passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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